

REMARKS

Claims 2-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In particular, as indicted by the Examiner, the phrase "any" render the claims vague and indefinite. Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C 102(b) as being anticipated by Cho (U.S. Patent No. 5,396,287). Claim 2-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being as being unpatentable over Cho in view of Marks et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,845,009). Claims 3-4 have been canceled without prejudice. Claim 2 has been amended to obviate the 35 U.S.C. 112 rejection. New claims 5-7 have been added, support for adding new claims 5-7 can be found in the specification at on page 6, line 20 through page 7, line 4. Claims 1-2 and 5-7 are pending.

On the merits, applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims, as amended, are patentable for at least the following reasons.

Amended independent claim 1 is directed to a device for remotely controlling a camera having a lens, said device comprising: a monitor operable to display a field of view of the lens; means for determining a gaze by a viewer upon an image in the field of view; and means for selectively adjusting a zoom and a focus of the lens in a direction of the image using the gaze. New claim 5 recites similar limitations.

Cho, as read by the applicants, relates to a TV camera work control OP apparatus using a tripod head.

Marks, as read by the applicants, relates to an object tracking system using statistical modeling and geometric relationships.

Applicants find nothing in Cho or Marks, alone or in combination, that teaches the limitations of (a) means for determining a gaze by a viewer upon an image in the field of view; and means for selectively adjusting a zoom and a focus of the lens in a direction of the image using the gaze, as specifically recited in amended claim 1.

The Examiner indicated these limitations are shown in Cho on col. 4, line 4 through col. 5, lines 29. Applicants respectfully disagree. Cho in this section teaches the use of a touch panel and joystick and not determining a gaze by a viewer upon an image in the field of view; and means for selectively adjusting a zoom and a focus of the lens in a direction of the image using the gaze.

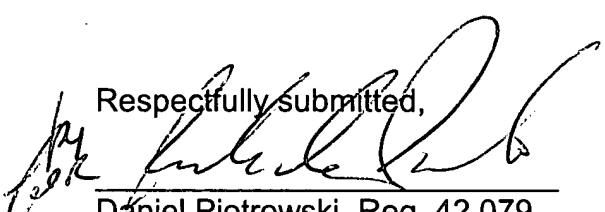
Since Cho or Marks, alone or in combination, does not teach, show or suggest all of the features of amended independent claim 1, as recited above, applicant respectfully submits that these claims are patentable over these references.

Claims 2 and 6-7 in this application are each dependent from one or the other of independent claims discussed above and are, therefore, believed allowable and patentable for at least the same reasons.

The applicants have made a sincere attempt to advance the prosecution of this application by reducing the issues for consideration and specifically delineating the zone of patentability. The applicants submit that the claims, as they now stand, fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112, 102 and 103. In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application are respectfully solicited.

Mail all correspondence to:
US PHILIPS CORPORATION
580 White Plains Road
Tarrytown, NY 10591

Respectfully submitted,


Daniel Piotrowski, Reg. 42,079
Attorney for Applicants
Phone (914) 333-9624
Fax: (914) 332-0615

By:
Rick dePinho
Reg. 41703

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On May 17, 2003
By Rick dePinho

Rick dePinho, Reg. 41703

VERSION WITH MARKING TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 3-4 without prejudice, add new claims 5-7 and amended the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A device for remotely controlling a camera having a lens, said device comprising:

a monitor operable to display a field of view of the lens;
means for determining a gaze by a viewer upon an image in the field of view; and
means for selectively adjusting a zoom and a focus of the lens in a direction of the image using the gaze.

2. The device of claim 1, further comprising:
means for selectively adjusting a pan orientation and a tilt orientation of the camera and selectively adjusting the zoom and focus of the lens as a function of any movement of the image.

5. (New) A device for remotely controlling a camera having a lens, said device comprising:
a monitor operable to display a field of view of the lens;
a processor configured to (1) determine a gaze by a viewer upon an image in the field of view and (2) selectively adjust a zoom and a focus of the lens in a direction of the image.

6. (New) The device of claim 5, wherein the processor is further configured to selectively adjust a pan orientation and a tilt orientation of the camera and selectively adjust the zoom and focus of the lens as a function of a movement of the image.

7. (New) The device of claim 5, wherein the processor determines the gaze by generating an image of the viewer's face, using a pattern recognition technique on the image of the viewer's face, wherein a recognition of a outer corner of either eye is used as a reference to determine an orientation of the pupils of the viewer's eyes.